

LET'S GET WASHINGTON COVERED: Restructuring Health Insurance Task Force  
June 25, 2003 meeting  
1:30 – 4:30pm, DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac, Wash.

In attendance: Commissioner Mike Kreidler

Representing Consumers: Adair Dammann, Washington State Council, Service Employees International Union;; Ed Singler, AARP; Barbara Flye, Washington Citizen Action Council

Representing Insurers: Yori Milo, Premera Blue Cross; Margaret Stanley, Regence Blue Shield

Representing Providers: Lori Bielinski, Complementary and Alternative Medicine; Rhonda Hauff, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services; Paul Tucker, Highline Community Hospital; Thomas Curry, Washington Medical Association; Tom Jones, Community Choice Healthcare Network

Representing Purchasers: Laura Boyd, Health Care Purchasers and Association of Washington Business; Pete Cutler, Health Care Authority; Cynthia Voortman, Washington Association of Health Underwriters; Carolyn Logue, National Federation of Independent Business; Gary Smith, Independent Business Association

OIC: Michael Arnis, Ann Eddy, Valerie Gerst, Sandi Peck, Stephanie Marquis, George Xu, Bill Daley

ABSENT: Pam MacEwan, Group Health Cooperative

The minutes from the May 28, 2003 meeting were adopted as amended. Paul Tucker represents Providers on the task force, not Purchasers.

Commissioner Kreidler welcomed task force members and noted that he had asked Robert Pregulman, Executive Director of WashPIRG, to join the task force to represent consumers. Robert declined the appointment because he was not able to attend all of the meetings and he didn't feel he had enough time to fully commit to the task force.

Commissioner Kreidler also mentioned that the original timeline to define a solution and to decide upon a legislative option was a bit too optimistic. He moved the due date for a legislative option from August to October. He then discussed the idea of a task force retreat. Most task force members thought a retreat would be a good idea and should be at least 1 ½ days in length and that it would be best scheduled after Labor Day. Most members also thought that the time at the retreat should focus on defining the legislative option. It was also mentioned that a west side location may be better for most members on the task force.

#### COMPUTER MODELING SYSTEM

George Xu presented the simulation system developed by Lewin. Task force members asked that the system be test run so they can better understand the results it can provide. They suggested using data that is readily available and to test the system with that data.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

After much discussion about guiding principles, it was agreed that the following would be used as the task forces' guiding principles:

In exploring ways to improve health insurance in Washington State, the task force should consider options that:

- A. Reduce the number of uninsured individuals while stabilizing current insurance enrollment levels.
- B. Promote the availability of more affordable health insurance for consumers and purchasers while promoting sustainable health insurance for insurers and providers.
- C. Learn from and build upon what works well while considering creative, new ideas.

## DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The task force members agreed that they will make decisions by consensus. A consensus means that all members can live with and support the proposed decision.

## PROBLEM STATEMENTS

The task force discussed reducing the number of problem statements. OIC will set up a process to refine and clarify problem statements that can be used in the July meeting. The process will be discussed with task force members in conference calls prior to the next meeting on July 23, 2003.

## WRAP UP

Commissioner Kreidler thanked the members for their diligence. He encouraged the members to continue to work toward a legislative option and is appreciative of the time they are devoting to the task force.

## OPEN MICROPHONE

A naturopath spoke about the importance of considering preventive care in the option considered by the task force.

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Gerst